



# State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

Michael O. Leavitt  
Governor

Robert L. Morgan  
Executive Director

Lowell P. Braxton  
Division Director

1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210

PO Box 145801

Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801

(801) 538-5340 telephone

(801) 359-3940 fax

(801) 538-7223 TTY

www.nr.utah.gov

April 17, 2003

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Paul Baker, Senior Reclamation Biologist *PAB*

RE: Site Inspection, GoldTerra, Black Butte Mine, S/015/080, Emery County, Utah

Date of Inspection: March 28, 2003  
Time of Inspection: about 3:50 to 4:30 p.m.  
Conditions: Mostly clear 40's  
Participants: Paul Baker (DOGM)

## Purpose of Inspection:

There was no specific reason for the inspection. I was in the area and stopped to look at the site.

## Getting to the site:

Traveling on US 6/191 between Green River and Wellington, there is one bridge where the highway goes over the railroad. Just north of this overpass is a dirt road leading east then veering south along the power lines. About where the road goes under the power lines, it goes over an ephemeral wash where the road was washed out (Photo 1). I was able to drive around this washout. Continue under the power lines for about one and one-half miles then head southeast toward some low hills in the distance. At about this point, the road crosses another ephemeral wash where the road was again washed out (Photo 2). I was not able to continue driving after this point, so I walked about the last half mile to the site which is on the back side of a small, black butte. The total distance from the highway to the mine is about three miles.

## Observations:

The site consists of an excavation about, as I recall, fifteen feet deep with material from the excavation placed to the side (Photos 3 and 4). The site is in Mancos shale, so there is little vegetation. There are a few places where people have driven in the mine area, and the total disturbance is about one acre not including the access road.

Part of the access road is included in the disturbed area.

Page 2

GoldTerra, Inc., Black Butte Mine

S/015/080

Inspection Date: March 28, 2003; Report Date: April 17, 2003

I could not tell that there were any soil stockpiles. The notice of intention says topsoil will be saved if there is any available.

**Conclusions and Recommendations:**

There is very little vegetation at this site, and I'm not sure there is anything that could be considered soil that is worth salvaging. In reclamation, the more coarse material should be placed in the pit first with finer material put over the top. If the site is left extremely rough, there is a chance for some vegetation to grow.

The notice of intention says the proposed new road will cross two moderate sized drainages and that culverts will be installed in these drainages. The first of these locations is shown in Photo 2; there is obviously no culvert. I do not remember whether there was a culvert at the second crossing. To be in compliance with the notice, the operator needs to install these culverts.

jb

cc: Dan Sheppard, GoldTerra  
Dean Nyffeler, Price BLM

O:\M015-Emery\S0150080-BlackButte\draft\ins-03282003.doc



**ATTACHMENT**

**Inspection Date: March 28, 2003; Report Date: April 17, 2003**

**Photographs**

**S/015/080, Black Butte Mine, GoldTerra**



**Photo 1. The first crossing.**



**Photo 3.**



**Photo 2. The second crossing. I was not able to drive this one.**



**Photo 4. The excavation and some of the excavated material.**